

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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General

- In 1950, the population of Cluj [4644N-2333E] was approximately 120,000. The city occupied an area of about 11 to 15 square kilometers. Cluj is situated on the Somes River (Raul Somes) which is not navigable at that point. Railroad lines connected the city with Bucharest, Oradea, Satu Mare and Sighet. A civilian airport, known as the Someseni Airport was situated about eight kilometers east of town, and the TARS line (Rumanian-Soviet Air Transport) furnished service to Bucharest, Oradea, Satu Mare and Sibiu. Each plane normally had a Soviet pilot, a Rumanian pilot, and a radioman who used an international code. Messages were usually sent first in Russian, and were then repeated in Rumanian.

Community Health Conditions

- [REDACTED] the birth rate for 1950 to be 7 per 1,000 and the death rate, 8 per 1,000. [REDACTED] the infant mortality rate for the same year at 50 per 1,000. The leading causes of death were undernourishment, physical and nervous exhaustion, tuberculosis, infant mortality, heart disease, diseases of the alimentary tract, and cancer. [REDACTED]

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3. There were always cases of deaths from typhoid and paratyphoid fevers

There were no deaths in the 1948-1950 period from cholera, typhus, plague, yellow fever or leprosy. A case of leprosy was identified about two years ago; this was the third such case in the last 20 years. The individual was sent to a leprosarium in Tighilisti, a town in the Dobrogea area. There are several towns known as Tighilisti.

The NIS Gazetteer does not list Tighilisti. It does, however, list two towns called Tichilesti, one of which is at 4437N-2805E, which is in the vicinity of Dobrogea (4400N-2800E).

4. There were no deaths in the period 1948-1950 from smallpox, malaria, amoebic or bacillary dysentery. There were many forms of tuberculosis among the people, and many deaths as a result of it. It is possible that malaria led to some deaths as a secondary cause. Some deaths occurred among children which were attributed to an unspecified form of dysentery.
5. The following diseases were endemic: typhoid, tuberculosis, syphilis, influenza, whooping cough, measles, and epidemic hepatitis (the latter disease is now known in Rumania as Botkin's Disease, after the great Russian doctor who had engaged in studies on the disease).

Water

6. Cluj had a public water supply system. The waterworks was on Grigorescu Street, on the left bank of the Somes River, near the Children's Asylum (Azilul de Copii). The water was obtained from the Somes, and was subjected to a sand filtration.

Pressure in the mains was created mechanically.

7. This water system could furnish water to the whole population

About 90% of the city's inhabitants used the system. There were private wells in the city's outskirts used by the inhabitants there.

8. Chemical and bacteriological analysis of the water was performed by the Hygiene Section of the Public Health Office. The water could be drunk directly from the tap, without further treatment.

No bottled water was used. Some people, for dietary reasons only, occasionally drank a mineral water known as "Hebe", but no one used "Hebe" because of any question about the city water's potability. Since the Somes River is not navigable, there were no ships to be supplied with water from the public system.

9. No water supply available in Cluj, other than the public system and private wells on the city's periphery. Industrial firms obtained their water from the public system.

Food

10. In Cluj, all food stores were State-owned and were inspected by sanitary officers from the Ministry of Health. A regular meat supply in the stores has been unheard of for several years. Slaughterhouses were inspected by veterinarians who stamped the meat acceptable at those points. However, physicians were employed to inspect

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17. Garbage was normally deposited in open containers along the public streets where it was collected once or twice a week by trucks and taken to a disposal field located about 500 m from the eastern border of town near the Cancer Institute. This system was unsanitary, but it was the usual procedure followed in Cluj. The garbage dump odor was frequently blown towards the city by the wind. Gypsies lived near the dump and scavenged there. 25X1
18. [redacted] dead animals were cremated. Human bodies were usually buried. There was a crematorium in Bucharest, but cremation was rare.
19. There was no regular system of pest control in Cluj. A physician learned of cases of contagious disease only when the patient reported to him. He normally did not search out the disease. On finding a case, the physician described it to the hygienist-physician of the Health Ministry office who then made an epidemiological investigation, instituted a quarantine, and took the measures necessary to prevent the spread of disease.
20. During a typhus epidemic in 1946, non-specialized personnel controlled and inspected the hygienic condition of all buildings in Cluj. No other measures were taken to remove vermin from the buildings or from the area. There were many fleas, flies and lice in the buildings in Cluj. Along the banks of the Somes there were many large rats; no measures have ever been taken to exterminate them.
21. There were two sections of Cluj which were regarded as very unhealthy. One, known as the Tigania, was in the center of the city behind the opera house. Plans to demolish this quarter were accepted, and in 1950 the job of removing the inhabitants and resettling them in the Cluj suburbs was started. The second slum area of Cluj, known as Dragalina, was on the bank of the Somes River on the same side of the river as the Children's Asylum.

Medical and Hospital Facilities

22. There were about 20 hospitals in Cluj, furnishing about 2,200 beds. Of this number, about 250 beds were in the Children's Asylum and the Institute for the Aged. Another 100 beds were available in the homes for the blind and the deaf and dumb. 25X1
23. The hospitals had available services in medicine, surgery, dentistry, nursing and obstetrics. These services, however, were inadequate, especially the medical service and children's care. Usually the sick had to wait one to three days before being accepted in the hospitals. In serious cases, extra space was improvised, however. Convalescence in the hospital was sharply curtailed and cases were dismissed very quickly, in order to make room for others.
24. The main shortage in Cluj with regard to medical care was in common drugs. Pharmaceuticals were available only in small quantities and were of poor quality. Sulfonamides made in Rumania were available, and, beginning in 1951, Soviet and Danish penicillin appeared in pharmacies on rare occasions. Organ extracts were scarce. Foreign-made drugs were practically unobtainable through normal outlets. 25X1

Local Health and Welfare Administration

25. The Ministry of Health had an active Tuberculosis Control Division. A Venereal Disease Control Section also existed, although it was not as active as the Tuberculosis Control Division; there was recognition of the VD problem, however, and countermeasures were more common than they had been in the past. Tuberculosis and venereal disease have recently become more widespread and require greater attention. The TB Control Division in Cluj was outstanding in Rumania.

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26. The existing Sanitation Control Division was inoperative. A service for the protection of mothers and children existed and was well organized, but practical facilities were unavailable. There was no state organization which really concerned itself with the public welfare. The only group which kept close check on the people's lives and activities was the Security Police, who maintained close watch on all activities which might be harmful to the State. There was no follow-up of cases of infectious diseases by any "welfare" workers. 25X1
27. There was a group in Cluj who were educating children taken as militant Communists. this training, was being given in a building belonging to the Neurology Department of the Cluj Medical School. 25X1 25X1
28. The Red Cross supposedly existed, but had no functions. The International Red Cross was regarded as a spy organization.
29. Communicable diseases had to be reported according to a published table of urgency for reporting diseases. The Armed Forces reported incidents of infectious disease by telegraph to the Chief Medical Officer.
30. Babies received immunizations against children's diseases and against smallpox. A re-vaccination against smallpox was given at the age of seven. Adults were expected to receive immunizations against typhoid and paratyphoid A & B, but the people were not conscientious about reporting for this inoculation, nor was the task performed conscientiously by the physicians. Only 10% of the population complied. In Cluj and other cities, children received the tuberculin test and BCG vaccination.
31. Workers and their families (about 10% of the city's population) received medical care from the dispensary of the employing factory. Students (10% of the population) were cared for by the Students' Polyclinic. Employees of the Rumanian Railway System (Calea Ferate Romane --- CFR) and their families, who made up six per cent of the population of Cluj, were cared for by the CFR Polyclinic. The rest of the population was cared for at the City Polyclinic or at clinics of the university. Civilians benefited from the Cluj hospitals in proportion to their political standing or service to the government.

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